# Three Rivers Middle School

# Course Catalog
# 2026-2027

Mr. Jason D. Bingaman, Principal
Mr. Anthony Wolbert, Assistant Principal

Follow us on Facebook at: **Three Rivers Middle School**
to see all of the amazing achievement and accomplishments
of our staff & students!

# ROAR Expectations

| | Be Respectful | Be Organized | Be Accountable | Be Responsible |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Classroom/ Instructional Areas** | • Face the speaker<br>• Respect volume level<br>• Stay positive | • Be prepared-bring all materials | • Actively participate<br>• Focus on instruction<br>• Own your actions | • Be on time<br>• Take care of bathroom, locker, and drinking needs before class |
| **Hallway** | • Move quickly with a purpose<br>• Be aware of others<br>• Walk on the right side<br>• Volume Level = 2 | • Keep lockers clean and organized<br>• Throw away items not needed<br>• Arrange materials for easy access | • Encourage others<br>• Own your actions<br>• Hall passes required and properly worn/displayed | • Keep hallways clean and free of any trash<br>• Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself |
| **Bathroom** | • Respect the privacy of others<br>• Take care of business and exit promptly<br>• Volume Level = 2 | • Clean up after yourself<br>• Properly dispose all trash | • Be polite<br>• Use for intended purposes only<br>• Own your actions | • Wash your hands<br>• Be timely<br>• Flush toilets |
| **Media Center** | • Limit table talk<br>• Walk around during passing time<br>• Volume Level = 0 / 1 | • Return books on time or renew<br>• Teacher pass required | • Be polite<br>• Own your actions<br>• Focus on your task | • Use seating properly and push in chairs<br>• Use shelf markers<br>• Clean up after yourself |
| **Assemblies** | • Respond to hand signal<br>• Volume Level<br>• Entering = 2<br>• Listening to speaker = 0 | • Enter and remain with class at all times<br>• Stay seated until dismissed<br>• All items need to be placed in your locker | • Participate<br>• Use positive responses<br>• Eyes and ears on speaker | • Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself<br>• Ignore inappropriate behaviors<br>• Respond promptly to adults |
| **Office** | • Quietly wait your turn<br>• Use good manners<br>• Volume Level = 1 | • Office pass required | • Be patient | • Come to the office by yourself<br>• Phone use for emergencies only |
| **Bus Area** | • Respect school property bus drivers, and all students | • Prepare throughout the day for quick dismissal | • Own your actions | • Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself<br>• Know your routine for beginning and end of day |
| **Cafeteria** | • Wait your turn<br>• Respond to quiet signal<br>• Volume Level = 2 | • Raise your hand for assistance<br>• Clean up your area | • Eat only your own food<br>• Walk when entering and exiting | • Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself<br>• Say please and thank you<br>• Positive attitude |

# NEW STUDENTS

If you are new to Three Rivers Community Schools, welcome! The Three Rivers Middle School administrative team is glad that you have joined us, and hope that you are excited too.

Registering for classes at the middle school is a new process for many. Take some time to read through the course descriptions for the grade you will be entering and begin to make your choices. If you have any questions, you or your parents/guardians are welcome to call or email and we'll do our best to help!

Now, it's time to get started! Find the section of this catalog that applies to you and start reading. Good luck, and have fun making your selections.

See you soon!

# Get Involved!

**Sports - School Sponsored**

Fall:

- Football (7 & 8)
- Girls Volleyball (7 & 8)
- Cross Country (6, 7 & 8)

Winter:

- Boys Basketball (6, 7 & 8)
- Girls Basketball (6, 7 & 8)
- Wrestling (6, 7 & 8)
- Competitive Cheer (6, 7 & 8)

Spring:

- Track & Field (6, 7 & 8)
- Tennis (6, 7 & 8)

Clubs

- Science Olympiad
- Math Meet
- Quiz Bowl
- Acts of Random Kindness (ARK)
- Archery
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Ski Club
- Knitting
- Student Council
- Musicals
- Theatre
- Cheer
- Fishing

New offerings each year!

# Michigan Department of Education Career Pathways

**Arts and Communication**

Careers in this path are related to the humanities and performing, visual, literary, and media arts. These include architecture; graphic, interior, and fashion design; writing; film; fine arts; journalism; languages; media; advertising; and

public relations.

**Description**
Are you a creative thinker? Are you imaginative, innovative, and original? Do you like to communicate ideas? Do you like making crafts, drawing, playing a musical instrument, taking photos, or writing stories? This may be the career path for you!

**Career Categories**
Advertising and Public Relations
Creative Writing
Film Production
Foreign Languages

**Courses in School**
Journalism
Radio and TV Broadcasting
Journalism
Graphic Arts
Language Arts
Fine Arts Courses
(Arts, Drama, Music)
Architectural Drafting and Design
Sculpture
Photography

**Sample Careers**
Public Relations
Executive
Dancer
Film Producer
Fashion Designer
Journalist
Radio and TV
Broadcaster

## Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology

Careers in this path are related to the business environment. These include entrepreneur, sales, marketing, computer/information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics, and management. Do you enjoy being a leader, organizing people, planning activities, and talking? Do you like to work with numbers or ideas? Do you enjoy carrying through with an idea and seeing the end product? Do you like things neat and orderly?

**Description**
Would you enjoy balancing a checkbook, following the stock market, holding an office in a club, or surfing the Internet? This may be your career path!

**Career Categories**
Accounting
Office Administration
Business Ownership
Economics
Personnel
Hospitality/Tourism Management
Computer/Information Systems
Marketing
Sales
Finance

**Courses in School**
Math
Language Arts
Computer Science
Business Management
Entrepreneurship
Computer Support
Accounting
Marketing

**Sample Careers**
Loan Officer
Economist
Legal Secretary
Hotel Manager
Office Manager
Computer Programmer
Salesperson
Travel Agent

## Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology

Careers in this path are related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install, and maintain physical systems. These include engineering, manufacturing, construction, service, and related technologies.

**Description**
Are you mechanically inclined and practical? Do you like reading diagrams and blueprints, and drawing building structures? Are you curious about how things work? Would you enjoy painting a house, repairing cars, wiring electrical circuits, or woodworking? This may be the career path for you!

**Career Categories**
Architecture

Precision Production
Mechanics and Repair
Manufacturing Technology
Engineering and Related Technologies
Drafting
Construction

**Courses in School**
Drafting
Science
Robotics
Machine Tools
Physical Sciences/Physics
Industrial/Mechanical Drafting
Math
Electronics

**Sample Careers**
Architect
Plumber
Electrician
Air Traffic Controller
Auto Mechanic
Chemical Engineer
Draftsman
Surveyor
Geographer

## Health Sciences

Careers in this path are related to the promotion of health and treatment of disease. These include research, prevention, treatment, and related health technologies.

**Description**
Do you like to care for people or animals who are sick or help them stay well? Are you interested in diseases and in how the body works? Do you enjoy reading about science and medicine? Would it be fun to learn first aid or volunteer at a hospital or veterinary clinic? This may be your career path!

**Career Categories**
Dentistry
Hygiene
Medicine

Nursing
Nutrition and Fitness
Therapy and Rehabilitation

**Courses in School**
Language Arts
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Health Education
Animal Care
Nutrition
Math
Physics

**Sample Careers**
Dentist
Dental Hygienist
Doctor
Veterinary Technician
Respiratory Therapist
Physical Therapist

## Human Services

Careers in this path are related to economic, political, and social systems. These include education, government, law and law enforcement, leisure and recreation, military, religion, child care, social services, and personal services.

**Description**
Are you friendly, open, understanding, and cooperative? Do you like to work with people to solve problems? Is it important to you to do something that makes things better for other people? Do you like to help friends with family problems? Do you like reading, storytelling, traveling, or tutoring young children? This could be your career path!

**Career Categories**
Human Services
Education

Child and Family Services
Food and Beverage Service
Law and Legal Studies
Law Enforcement
Cosmetologist
Social Services

**Courses in School**
History
Political Science
Social Studies
Language Arts
Cosmetology
Psychology
Culinary Arts
Child Care

**Sample Careers**
Chef
Teacher
Lawyer
Police Detective
Cosmetologist
Social Worker
Librarian
Firefighter

## Natural Resources and Agriscience

Careers in this path are related to agriculture, the environment, and natural resources. These include agricultural sciences, earth sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, and wildlife.

**Description**
Are you a nature lover? Are you practical, curious about the physical world, and interested in plants and animals? Do you enjoy hunting or fishing? Do you like to garden or mow the lawn? Are you interested in protecting the environment?
This could be your career path!

**Career Categories**
Agriculture
Animal Health Care
Earth Sciences
Environmental Science
Fisheries Management

Wildlife Management
Horticulture
Forestry
Life Sciences

**Courses in School**
Agriculture
Astronomy
Chemistry
Biological Sciences
Animal Science
Math
Botany
Geography

**Sample Careers**
Farmer
Oceanographer
Physicist
Landscaper
Marine Biologist G
Conservation Agent
Chemist
Forester

# Scheduling Basics

- **All Students will have 6 classes each school day**
  - **4 Core Classes (Social Studies, Math, Language Arts, Science)**
  - **2 Elective Classes (options differ each grade)**

# Core Academic Areas

## English Language Arts

**6th Grade Language Arts** - *Amplify - ELA* - Students transition into middle school literacy by learning to "read like investigators." The course focuses on close reading and evidence-based writing across a variety of genres. Students will explore short stories to analyze narrative craft, dive into selected readings to synthesize information from

multiple sources, and learn how historical and cultural contexts shape storytelling. Throughout the year, focus on story writing and grammar, empowering students to develop their own unique authorial voices. Full Year Course

**7th Grade ELA** - *Amplify ELA* - The 7th Grade ELA course challenges students to move from personal reflection to broader societal questions. Students examine the relationship between the individual and the state. The curriculum explores human psychology, uses storyboarding to analyze narrative perspective, builds research skills, and evaluates primary sources. The course emphasizes intermediate story writing and the analysis of how authors use character interactions to develop complex themes. Full Year Course

**8th Language Arts** - *Amplify - ELA*: In 8th Grade ELA, students "read like writers," focusing on how specific craft moves influence an audience. The curriculum centers on social justice and human rights, tackles classic and modern drama, and explores the boundaries of scientific ethics. The year culminates in advanced story writing and preparing students for high school by requiring high-level inferences and the synthesis of complex, multi-layered arguments. Skills learned in 6th & 7th grade are built upon in 8th grade in preparation for high school. Full Year Course

**8th Grade Language Arts "PLUS"** - "8th Grade Language Arts Plus" is designed to focus on developing strong foundational reading comprehension skills, advanced vocabulary building, critical analysis of literature across various genres, sophisticated writing techniques, and the ability to engage in deep, nuanced discussions about complex texts, all while emphasizing independent learning and critical thinking abilities beyond the standard 8th grade level.

This course moves at an accelerated pace than the general 8th grade Language Arts course and includes enrichment opportunities that challenge students, building a strong foundation for success in future Language Arts courses.

8th Grade Language Arts "PLUS" is **NOT** for high school credit, but is designed to prepare students for "Honors Language Arts 9" as a high school freshman. Any student may take this course, but students not meeting expectations will not be able to continue the course, and can move back into a regular paced 8th grade Language Arts class. Full Year Course

**Power Hour Reading -** Power Hour Reading is a class designed to help students better develop their reading skills. Students will work daily on strategies that help them to better comprehend informational text and use the text to answer questions. Practicing and applying these strategies in their other core classes will help them to become better, more efficient readers and writers. Applying these strategies across the content areas will allow students to have more overall success in their educational career. Students are selected to be part of this course. Full Year Course
*PHR will take the place of 1 exploratory class.

# Math

**6th Grade Math -** Instruction will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Full Year Course

**7th Grade Math** - In 7th Grade Math, students learn how to apply multiplicative relationships and ratio reasoning to understand rates and proportional relationships. They will learn how to operate with rational numbers and extend that understanding to writing and evaluating expressions and to writing and solving equations and inequalities. Students apply their understanding of equations and proportional reasoning to geometry, where they learn how to determine unknown angle measures by using angle relationships and how to determine the areas and volumes of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures. Full Year Course.

**8th Grade Math** - In 8th grade, students write and operate with numbers written in scientific notation by applying the definitions and properties of integer exponents. They explore congruence and similarity by describing rigid motions and dilations. Students prove and apply the Pythagorean theorem and its converse. They make connections and solve problems by using proportional relationships, lines, linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students define, evaluate, and compare functions and also use them to model relationships between quantities. Full Year Course

**8th Grade Math "PLUS"** - "8th Grade Math Plus" is designed to deepen a students' understanding of fundamental mathematical concepts. This course emphasizes problem-solving, critical thinking, and real-world applications while covering topics such

as integer operations, fractions, decimals, ratios, proportions, percentages, expressions, equations, inequalities, functions, and basic geometry concepts. Students will also explore introductory concepts in statistics and probability.

This course moves at an accelerated pace than the general 8th grade math course, covering pre-algebraic concepts in great depth, while including enrichment opportunities that challenge students to develop higher-order thinking skills into Algebraic concepts. Emphasis is placed on mathematical reasoning, logical problem-solving, and algebraic thinking to build a strong foundation for success in future advanced math courses.

8th Grade Math "Plus" is **NOT** for high school credit, but is designed to prepare students for "Honors Algebra I" as a high school freshman. Any student may take this course, but students not meeting expectations will not be able to continue the course, and can move back into a regular paced 8th grade Math class. Full Year Course

**Math Intervention -** This course has been created for those students who perform below the 6th grade math level or for students who have been unsuccessful on the MSTEP. Students in this class will receive instruction to enhance their math skills through planned "intervention" strategies as well as provide extra time for homework when they can seek extra assistance from available teachers. Students are selected to be a part of this course. 9 Week Intervals
*Math Interventions will take the place of one exploratory class.

# Science

**6th Grade Science -** Three Rivers Middle School students will focus on Michigan Science Standards utilizing Amplify Science-Integrated. Amplify Science is a highly engaging, phenomena-based program that integrates the latest practices in science teaching and learning, as well as interactive digital tools and hands-on activities, to teach students how to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. At the 6th grade level, students will investigate microbiomes, metabolism, traits and reproduction, thermal energy, oceans, atmosphere, and climate, weather patterns, and earth's changing climate. Students will also apply what they have learned while participating in 2 engineering internships. Full Year Course

**7th Grade Science** -Three Rivers Middle School students will focus on Michigan Science Standards utilizing Amplify Science-Integrated. Amplify Science is a highly engaging, phenomena-based program that integrates the latest practices in science teaching and learning, as well as interactive digital tools and hands-on activities, to teach students how to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. At the 7th grade level, students will investigate geology on Mars, plate motion, rock transformations, phase changes, chemical reactions, populations and resources, and matter and energy in ecosystems. Students will also apply what they have learned while participating in 2 engineering internship experiences. Full Year Course.

**8th Grade Science** -Three Rivers Middle School students will focus on Michigan Science Standards utilizing Amplify Science-Integrated. Amplify Science is a highly engaging, phenomena-based program that integrates the latest practices in science teaching and learning, as well as interactive digital tools and hands-on activities, to teach students how to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. At the 8th grade level, students will investigate harnessing human energy, forces and motion, magnetic fields, light waves, earth, moon, and sun, natural selection, and evolutionary history. Students will also apply what they have learned while participating in 2 engineering internships. Full Year Course

# Social Studies

**6th Grade Social Studies -** *World Geography:myWorld Interactive* creatively challenges students to use the 5 Themes of geography to view, analyze, and understand the world around them. The curriculum covers both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. The curriculum includes multiple opportunities for students to use hands-on learning with project based activities. Students will be identifying the ways in which the environment impacts human decision-making as well as how humans impact our geography each and every day. We will explore multiple continents while examining their environments, climates, forms of government, and their economies all while discussing the impact geography has on each of these topics. Students will spend time locating Continents, Countries, States, Territories, Provinces, and Cities. Students

will also locate geographic features on Earth including major landforms and how those landforms impact growing civilizations. Full Year Course

**7th Grade Social Studies** - World History: myWorld Interactive introduces students to the beginnings of the human story. Students will explore the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. Students will discover the secrets of these ancient cultures and analyze how they continue to influence the modern world today. Additionally students will delve into the world's major religions and foundations of democracy. Students will begin to recognize patterns across multiple regions. They will begin to make connections to how geography, economics, government, civics, and history are interconnected. Full Year Course.

**8th Grade Social Studies** - The United States: Revolutionary War through Reconstruction immerses students in a powerful journey through the history of the United States from its earliest foundations to the age of reconstruction. Students examine the philosophies, conflicts, and cultures around which the early nation developed and consider how past events have shaped our nation. Throughout the school year students will have the chance to explore the history of the United States from colonization, political development, westward expansion, economic and racial struggles leading to the Civil War, and the rebirth of the United States through Reconstruction. Full Year Course

# Elective Options

**6th Grade Physical Education:** The TRMS Physical Education program provides each student with a wide variety of physical activities, sports related skills and challenges that will contribute to the development and maintenance of their physical, cognitive and affective well-being. Emphasis is placed on active participation, individual goal setting and positive social interaction during fitness and sport activities. Students will focus on rules, etiquette, and skill technique for a variety of sports and recreational activities. Fitness evaluations will be completed to determine fitness goals with the goal of improving overall fitness and health. The program is designed to continue development of physical fitness, motor, perception, rhythm, and movement skills. Full Year Course

**7th Grade Physical Education**: The goal of 7th Grade Physical Education is to provide each student with the knowledge and desire to pursue fitness throughout life. This 7th grade course will introduce students to the foundations of physical fitness. During the

7th grade, students will develop the ability to assess personal fitness in terms of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Full Year Course

**8th Grade Physical Education** - Full Year Course: Course applies the principles, practices and the importance of lifelong fitness. Students will focus on rules, etiquette, and skill technique for a variety of sports and recreational activities. Students will participate in skill specific games, lead up games and finish the unit with an organized tournament. and strategies of that group activity or team sport.

**Advanced Strength Training** - An intense class for 7th & 8th graders designed to meet the needs of the serious athlete. This course will provide each individual with programs that will develop significant strength gains while improving an individual's cardiovascular level as well. Monthly testing in the areas of strength, vertical jump, speed and agility will be recorded and evaluated. Form running in addition to advanced running techniques will be taught as part of the speed development unit. Students will benefit from the opportunity to improve strength and conditioning during school hours while having additional time for enhancing academic responsibility and accountability outside of school. ***This class will take place at the high school and will require students to walk to and from the HS weight room on a daily basis, regardless of weather.*** (Spots may be limited due to staffing, multi sport athletes will be given first preference). Full Year Course

**7th Grade Health** - This program is designed to promote awareness of physical, mental, emotional and social development needs for optimal health throughout life. This course is designed to assist each student in developing and maintaining a lifestyle that promotes wellness by providing accurate and current health related information as the foundation for making educated, responsible and healthy personal health decisions. Areas of study in this course may include: nutrition, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, safety, emotional and social health, H.I.V. and S.T.I. prevention and sexuality education. Instructional activities may include: team activities, presentations, lectures, independent work and hands-on learning. 18 Week Course.

**7th Grade Computers -** All learners enrolled in the 7th grade Computer Science course will develop foundational computer science skills to solve problems and be constructive citizens. In doing so, students will: learn new approaches to problem solving; harness the power of computational thinking; and use computer science tools to create technology. Using the code.org computer science instruction platform, 7th graders will develop computer science skills in exposure to three units of study: Interactive

Animations and Games, where students create programmatic images, animations, interactive art, and games; Data and Society, where students will use data to solve problems; and Creating Apps with Devices where students will explore the role of physical devices in computing through using programmable and interactive circuit boards. 18 Week Course

**6th Grade Band: Beginning Band**
Grade 6, PREREQUISITES: Students must attend an instrument fitting meeting (at their elementary school or a music store-sponsored event) before enrolling in this class. Performs at two concerts each year. Emphasis is placed on learning basic musical skills such as tone production, rhythm, technique, intonation, and musicianship, as well as the fundamentals of playing the selected instrument. Following one year of Beginning Band, students are eligible to participate in summer music camps. Full Year Course

**7th Grade Band** - PREREQUISITES: 6th and/or 7th grade Band, Audition and/or Director's permission. Performs on three concerts each year as well as the M.S.B.O.A. District Band Festival. The Middle School Band is the top performing ensemble at the middle school level, and participation in this ensemble prepares the student for participation in High School Band. Emphasis is placed on learning more advanced concepts in tone production, rhythm, technique, intonation, and musicianship. Full Year Course

**8th Grade Band** - PREREQUISITES: Intermediate Band Course, Audition, and/or Director's permission. Performs on three concerts each year as well as the M.S.B.O.A. District Band Festival. The Middle School Band is the top performing ensemble at the middle school level, and participation in this ensemble prepares the student for participation in High School Band. Emphasis is placed on learning more advanced concepts in tone production, rhythm, technique, intonation, and musicianship. Full Year Course

**Choir** - 7th/8th Grade Choir is a non-auditioned choir for all students enrolled in the 7th or 8th Grade. This class is designed to acquaint students with the fundamentals of vocal music. Students will learn about their voice, fundamentals of quality singing, the characteristics of professional performance, and basic music reading skills. Members should expect to rehearse and perform at primary and intermediate levels, using primarily unison and two part voicings. Full Year Course

**8th Grade Art (Eighteen Week Cycle)** - Students in this course will be taught foundation knowledge of many different artistic mediums. This course is formatted in a way that gives students ample opportunity to practice skills in different mediums, preparing students for projects they will encounter in high school art classes. Drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and other mediums will be explored. Students will be able to incorporate their own creative ideas and unique perspectives to their work, making it more personal and original. As students develop through the class, they will research historical art movements, cultural art, and significant artists.

**8th Grade Advanced Art (Eighteen Week Cycle)** - Students will take this course after completing 8th Grade Art first semester. This course will expand on foundational knowledge of art mediums already discussed to allow students to creatively learn how to express themselves through art. Individuals may also be allowed to participate in teacher led self paced projects. Prerequisite - 8th Grade Art (must take 1st semester).

**8th Grade Computer Science (Eighteen Week Cycle)** - Students will develop foundational computer science skills to solve problems and be constructive citizens. In doing so, students will: learn new approaches to problem solving; harness the power of computational thinking; and use computer science tools to create technology. Using the code.org computer science instruction platform, 8th graders will develop computer science skills in their choice of exposure to three units of study: AI and Machine Learning, where learners will receive a hands-on introduction to developing a machine learning model with tabular data; Web Development, where students are put in the shoes of a web developer and empowered to design and create a web page to meet a user's needs; and the Design Process unit, where students will transition from thinking about computer science as a tool to solve their own problems towards considering the broader social impacts of computing.

**8th Grade Current Events (Eighteen Week Cycle)** - A daily class that investigates items that are surfacing in the daily news. Students are expected to be involved in classroom discussions which keeps them actively engaged. Media methods ranging from daily news, newspapers, and individual discussions from a student's experiences are used. Primary methods for obtaining up to date involve using the news show "The World from A to Z" hosted by Carl Azuz as well as Junior Scholastic (both magazine

and the electronic resources). Chromebooks are used to gather information and various media sources. The class can change daily depending on what is surfacing worldwide. Students will become more knowledgeable about the world around them through the analysis of potential short term and long term implications of global events, also showing how they are impacted by these events.

**6th Grade STEM -** In this 9 week course, STEM students will learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics through hands-on projects, labs, and exploration. Students in STEM will be introduced to: computer science, self-directed passion-driven inquiry, and hands-on innovation. Students will be given the opportunity to further deepen their STEM experiences with participation in a wide variety of activities that will challenge them in a variety of ways. Through these first hand experiences, students will come to realize how interesting and exciting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics can be!

**6th Grade Novel Thoughts** - In this 9 week course students will read a novel to better understand character development, themes, author's writing style and more. Comparisons to topics in the novel will be connected to current student interests and opportunities to create projects to deepen and display understanding.

**6th Grade Teen Leadership -** This 9 week program prepares students for achievement in whatever they may pursue, in and outside of school. Teen Leadership teaches students how to create S.M.A.R.T. Goals, monitor their individual goal, how to solve conflicts in a healthy way and take responsibility for themselves and their actions. This course also builds team building and leadership skills through group activities

**6th Grade Art** - Students in this 9 week course will have fun creating many different projects that they can be proud of while learning valuable aspects of creativity and art. The course curriculum will focus on the basic elements of art including; line, color, shape, form, texture, value, and space. Students will have the opportunity to explore drawing, painting, and ceramics, and even more during this class. As students create projects, they will learn valuable skills in craftsmanship, creativity, direction-following, and art studio behaviors to prepare them for further art classes.

**6th Grade Current Events** - A 9 week course that investigates items that are surfacing in the daily news. Students are expected to be involved in classroom discussions which keeps them actively engaged. Media methods ranging from daily news, newspapers, and individual discussions from a student's experiences are used. Primary methods for obtaining up to date involve using the news show "The World from A to Z" hosted by Carl Azuz as well as Junior Scholastic (both magazine and the electronic resources). Chromebooks are used to gather information and various media sources. The class can

change daily depending on what is surfacing worldwide. Students will become more knowledgeable about the world around them through the analysis of potential short term and long term implications of global events, also showing how they are impacted by these events.

# Special Education Services

Three Rivers Middle School offers co-taught classes in grades 6-8. This means that core general education content is delivered both by the general education teacher as well as the special education teacher. The special education programs available at TRMS offer individualized instructional and behavioral support to meet the needs of students with moderate to intensive needs. Paraprofessional support is available to provide/assist with accommodations. There are a number of transition activities for students receiving special education services in 8th grade, such as touring the high school and meeting high school staff and attending a self determination conference at the St. Joseph County ISD. All ancillary ISD staff frequent the building to meet the needs of students and are in constant communication with caseload providers.

# TRMS 8th Grade Online Course Options

The courses below are courses that students can take for ELECTIVE credit during 8th grade. The first 3 courses have been approved by TRHS for HS credit. The remaining courses can be taken for MS elective credit. Please use links to understand full details about the course. ***Virtual classes are not for all students, while they may provide for alternative course options, students taking these should be dedicated to being able to stay on task and work independently.*** These courses will be completed at school during a regular class in our computer lab.
Students who wish to change this class AFTER the Michigan Virtual Drop date may be charged for the cost of the class.

## Michigan Virtual High School - Classes For HS Credit

The following 3 classes for HS credit will be part of a students' High School transcript. Dropping the class after starting or failing the course will impact a students High School transcript.

MUSIC APPRECIATION ODYSSEY Link to Syllabus In this course students will "travel back in time" to learn some musical basics and history. In the first three units, students will learn about basics of musical ideas, notation, and instruments. In the remaining 5 units, students will learn about important musical ideas and people from the Ancient Times to the 20th Century. Students will be guided through a series of activities,

lessons, and assessments that teach them to identify and think about music in a way they may not have previously thought to do. HS MMC FINE ARTS CREDIT (.5 CR/NC; **.5 Letter grade and associated GPA starting with class of 2031**)

PERSONAL FITNESS Link to Syllabus This course is designed to assist students in developing motor skills, knowledge, and behaviors for healthy active living, physical fitness, sportsmanship, self-efficacy, and emotional intelligence. Topics include cardiovascular, muscular, nutritional, mental, and emotional fitness. In addition, students will assess their own levels of fitness, set fitness goals, and learn strategies for meeting those goals. Throughout the course, students will keep a fitness journal to track their progress toward their goals. HS MMC PE Credit (.5 CR/NC; **.5 Letter grade and associated GPA starting with class of 2031**)

VISUAL ART COMPREHENSION I Link to Syllabus Building on the educational outcomes of Visual Arts in elementary and middle school education, high school art prepares students for personal development in the arts, the construction of a body of work that may be instrumental in admission to higher education and professional development. The Visual Arts/Comprehensive I course introduces art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment and studio production. Emphasizes the ability to understand and use elements and principles of design through a variety of media, processes and visual resources. Explores master artworks for historical and cultural significance. HS MMC FINE ARTS CREDIT (.5 CR/NC; **.5 Letter grade and associated GPA starting with class of 2031**)

## Online Options - NON High School Credit (Middle School Elective Only)

**Aeronautics and Space Travel** **Link to Syllabus** (18 weeks/1 Semester)
This course introduces students to the history and near future of space travel. Students will explore the possibilities of moon bases, Mars colonies, and visiting the outer planets in our solar system and their moons. Students will also discuss important ethical and legal issues around space exploration, such as asteroid mining and war in space. The course gives an expansive view of the technologies, science, and theories that will make far-fetched dreams into realities during the student's lifetime.

**African American History** **Link to Syllabus** (18 weeks/1 Semester)
How have African Americans shaped the culture of the United States throughout history? Tracing the accomplishments and obstacles of African Americans from the slave trade through emancipation, and to the modern African diaspora, you will learn about the political, economic, social, religious, and cultural factors that have influenced African American life. In African American History, you'll come face to face with individuals who changed the course of history and learn more about slavery, racism, and the Civil Rights Movement. You will also explore how the history of African Americans influences current events today.

**Career Planning** **Link to Syllabus** (18 weeks/1 Semester)
This course provides a basic overview of career planning concepts. It gives students the opportunity to learn about, explore and reflect on various career opportunities based on Michigan's six Career Pathways.

**Character Education** **Link to Syllabus** (18 weeks/1 Semester)
This course teaches students practical skills for understanding and managing their emotions, setting goals and getting organized, understanding and getting along with others in our diverse world, and making good decisions. Research shows that people who practice these skills have greater academic achievement as students and experience more success and satisfaction as adults.

**Exploring a World of Languages** **Link to Syllabus** (18 weeks/1 Semester)
In this course, students will experience a variety of world languages especially relevant to those who live in North America. After exploring how languages are learned and how "families" of world languages are connected to one another, students will explore the basics of German (a historical relative of English), Spanish (the 2nd most spoken language in the U.S. and a predominant language in Central/South America to our south), French (an official language of Canada, our neighbor to the north), and American Sign Language or ASL (an American dialect of a non-verbal language). The purpose of this course is for students to experience firsthand some of the similarities and differences among four important world languages so that they are ready to make an informed decision about which language they may wish to study to fulfill their Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirements and so that they feel confident and excited about continuing their language studies. The content and assessments align with the Michigan Merit Curriculum World Languages Standards and Benchmarks.

**History of Gaming and E-Sports** **Link to Syllabus** (18 weeks/1 Semester)
In this course, students will learn about the technologies and design principles that have been the foundation of the development of video game technology over the last 50 years. Students will examine and discuss the impact of video games on culture and the economy. Students will learn about the current gaming and e-sports landscape, including strategies and techniques of top teams and individuals. This course will also discuss the risks and dangers of video games and understand how to set appropriate time and content parameters. Finally, the course will identify career paths and opportunities for those who are passionate about gaming.

**Introduction to Artificial Intelligence** **Link to Syllabus** (18 weeks/1 Semester)
This course provides an introduction to key concepts, uses, impacts on society, and relevant career explorations. It does NOT involve computer programming or development of artificial intelligence algorithms or other AI programs on the part of the student. The course is designed to provide students with a foundation in the historical development of AI, exposure to a variety of use cases in our society and economy, and an opportunity to reflect on important questions about its potential benefits and causes for concern. It does not concentrate, however, on specific use of large language model generative AI applications, such as ChatGPT, that have only recently gained widespread name recognition and popular interest. Students will require a computer device, web browser, and a basic office suite of software (a word processor). If you do not have Microsoft Office on your computer, you can either download Open Office or use Google Docs.

**Leadership Skills Development A** **Link to Syllabus**
This is the first semester of a year-long course. Winner of the highly coveted CODiE award for innovation, vision and industry impact, Leadership Skills Development equips teenagers with leadership skills they can use to build confidence and prepare for college. Students learn critical skills such as goal setting, time management, developing their brand, negotiations and even complete a service project that positively impacts their community. The course principles were developed by Mawi Asgedom, an Ethiopian refugee who became a Harvard University graduate. This course has assisted 75-90% of students in improving their grades, skills and confidence. Prerequisites: None

**Leadership Skills Development B** **Link to Syllabus**
This is the second semester of a year-long course. Winner of the highly coveted CODiE award for innovation, vision and industry impact, Leadership Skills Development equips teenagers with leadership skills they can use to build confidence and prepare for college. Students learn critical skills such as goal setting, time management, developing their brand, negotiations and even complete a service project that positively impacts their community. The course principles were developed by Mawi Asgedom, an Ethiopian refugee who became a Harvard University graduate. This course has assisted 75-90% of students in improving their grades, skills and confidence. Prerequisites: None

**Learning in a Digital World - Citizenship** **Link to Syllabus**
The digital world seems to change every day, and touch more of our lives. We use technology to communicate with friends and family, find neverending entertainment options, follow our favorite sports teams and fashion trends, and do our school work. In Learning in a Digital World you will get the tools to navigate this exciting and always changing world.

**Middle School Digital Art and Design** **Link to Syllabus**
The world is filled with so many different forms of art - including digital art. In this course, you'll explore this special genre of art found in everything from advertising to animation to photography and beyond. Additionally, you'll tap into your creative side to create digital art and make it come alive!

**Middle School Music of the World A** **Link to Syllabus**
Get ready to elevate your music knowledge to the next level. In this course, you will learn about Global musical traditions as you explore the function of music in a multitude of cultures. You will examine the fundamentals, sound, and structure of music to understand how music is representative of the culture it was created in. Prerequisites: None. While the recommended sequence is Music of the World A: Practices and Purposes in Society, followed by Music of the World B: Migration and Cultural Significance, students may take either segment independently as a stand-alone course or in either sequence.

**Middle School Music of the World B** **Link to Syllabus**
Get ready to elevate your music knowledge to the next level. In this course, you will learn about Global musical traditions as you explore the function of music in a multitude of cultures. You will examine the fundamentals, sound, and structure of music to understand how music is representative of the culture it was created in. Prerequisites: None. While the recommended sequence is Music of the World A: Practices and Purposes in Society, followed by Music of the World B: Migration and Cultural Significance, students may take either segment independently as a stand-alone course or in either sequence.

**Spanish 1A (6-8)** **Link to Syllabus**
This course is the first in a two-course sequence. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit.

**Spanish 1B (6-8)** **Link to Syllabus**
This course is the second in a two-course sequence. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Prerequisites: Spanish 1A

**STEM Tools for the Future** **Link to Syllabus**

You've probably heard of STEM, but what exactly is it? STEM is the process of applying a combination of science, technology, engineering, and math and brainstorming, building, testing, and seeking answers through research. In this course, you'll begin to develop these skills and learn how STEM can shape the future and even solve the world's biggest problems through innovation. Seems pretty cool, right? Let's start digging for answers into this groundbreaking subject!

**Sports and Entertainment Marketing** **Link to Syllabus**
The bright lights. The roaring crowds. The chants and cheers and applause. If you are drawn to the electricity of large events and the challenge of making events successful, a career in sports and entertainment marketing may be for you! In this course, you will trace the development of these industries, dissect their dual nature, and discover what it takes to pitch, promote, and deliver on these services. You 'll also explore the necessary steps to chart your own career path from among the professional roles that these industries need to operate. Let's get off the sidelines and hop into the primetime of the sporting and entertainment worlds!

**Study Skills** **Link to Syllabus**
This course is designed to help students strengthen their study skills and strategies to increase their performance and success in an academic setting. Students will learn how to use their learning styles to tailor approaches to learning, process information more efficiently, manage time effectively, set clear and attainable goals, increase concentration, reduce stress and procrastination, read critically, take notes effectively, improve listening skills, and prepare for tests with a variety of question formats.

# Three Rivers Partnership Classes

Students interested in completing electives through the Three Rivers Partnership may visit TRP Offerings.